

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 648

By Harrison

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Hancock County's  
Purple Heart Medal recipients.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, over the course of this State's history, countless Hancock County residents have followed this time-honored tradition of volunteerism and chosen to serve a grateful nation as members of the United States military; and

WHEREAS, in the course of their service, many of these brave Hancock County soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines have been wounded; some have lost their lives for their country; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that, for their sacrifices, these service people should be honored with proper solemnity and respect and in order to do this, the U.S. military has been awarding the Purple Heart to men and women in military service since the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart, then known as the Badge of Military Merit, was first established by General George Washington by order from his headquarters at Newburgh, New York, in the summer of 1782; and

WHEREAS, after the colonies won the war against the British, the Badge fell into disuse; however, by order of the President, the Purple Heart was revived in 1932, and some soldiers from earlier times were granted the medal as well; and

WHEREAS, Hancock County's roll of Purple Heart recipients today includes veterans of foreign wars, service members who were killed or injured outside of active conflict, and even a Civil War veteran; and

WHEREAS, two received the medal for service during World War I: William McCoy and John F. Brewer; and

WHEREAS, many Hancock County residents served in World War II, and the following were awarded the Purple Heart: Hoqh Kyle Jayes, Dr. Truett H. Pierce, General Preston Douglas, Tommy Bolden, Eugene H. Brewer, Rewery C. Brogan, Oral C. Crumly, Sergeant James "Buck" Backer, William Frank Cavid, David Macadon Givens, Wayne Carl Holt, Edwin By Louthen, Limea Purkey, Charles Henry Ramsey, Charles F. Seal, Clure Singleton, Pete Williams, Earl Yount, Joe H. Seal, James Jester Cook, Golbal Johnson, Lloyd L. Anderson, Clifford Depew, Nicholas W. Johnson, Paul J. Nichols, Braxton Brewer, Darrell M. Brown, Robert T. Trent, Carl Trent, Ellis Bolden, Allan T. Rogers, and Buster Bryant Wilder; and

WHEREAS, Korean War Purple Heart recipients include Paul Campbell, William C. Anderson, Arly Stapleton, and Stanley L. Mathis; and

WHEREAS, Hancock County Purple Heart recipients who received the medal for service during the Vietnam War were Kenneth Mackley, Larry Lee Sexton, Douglas B. Seal, Laborne C. "Pete" Malone, Sergeant Harold Byrd, William Clyde Page, and Oscar Hopkins, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Edgar Johnson, Joe Fugate, and Hubert Welder also received the Purple Heart for their sacrifices; and

WHEREAS, for his service during the war between the states, George Washington Pridemore is the lone Civil War veteran from Hancock County known to have received the Purple Heart for his service; and

WHEREAS, with their valorous sacrifices, signified by their Purple Heart commendations, all of these Hancock County residents have brought honor not only to their local community but to the whole State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend all those brave and selfless Hancock

County service members who have been awarded the Purple Heart for the sacrifices they made on behalf of all their fellow Americans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.